Amendments To the Claims

Please amend the claims as shown. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims at a later date.

1.-14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) A system for using services provided by a ~~in at least one~~ communication network, ~~having internet mechanisms,~~ the system comprising:

a communication network having internet mechanisms;

at least one automation system having automation components connected by a conventional field bus, the automation components lacking internet mechanisms; and

a service access unit for connecting the conventional field bus to the communication network, wherein the service access unit operates ~~is provided~~ as a client for requesting the services and includes a protocol converter for adapting a first communication protocol used by the services to a second communication protocol used by the field bus, thereby permitting the automation components to access internet mechanisms of the communications network.

16. (previously presented) The system according to claim 15, wherein the service access unit is integrated into the automation system.

17. (currently amended) The system according to claim 15, wherein

the communication network has at least one central register database for providing information about at least part of the services, and

the service access unit includes a search engine ~~configured to~~ for searching the central register database.

18. (previously presented) The system according to claim 15, wherein the services are web services.

19. (previously presented) The system according to claim 15, wherein the communication network is an intranet.

20. (currently amended) The system according to claim 15, wherein the service access unit ~~is configured to~~ provides further services in the communication network.

21. (currently amended) A method for using services provided in at least one communication network having internet mechanisms and at least one automation system comprising automation components connected by a conventional field bus, the method comprising:

connecting the conventional field bus to the communication network by a service access unit, the automation components lacking internet mechanisms;

adapting a first communication protocol used by the services to a second communication protocol used by the field bus by a protocol converter included in the service access unit, thereby permitting the automation components to access internet mechanisms of the communications network; and

accessing the services by the automation components using the service access unit as a client.

22. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the service access unit is integrated into the automation system.

23. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, further comprising:

providing at least one central register database having information about at least part of the services, and

searching the central register database by a search engine included in the service access unit when accessing the services.

24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the services are web services.

25. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the communication network is an intranet.

26. (currently amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein the service access unit ~~is configured to~~ provides further services in the communication network.

27. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the services include executing a software update of at least one of the automation components.

28. (currently amended) A service access unit for connecting an automation system having automation components to a communication network having internet mechanisms, comprising a protocol converter for adapting a first communication protocol used by the services to a second communication protocol used by a conventional field bus, the automation components lacking internet mechanisms, the conventional field bus connecting the automation components, wherein the service access unit operates ~~is configured~~ as an internet client or an intranet client for requesting the services and permitting the automation components to access the internet mechanisms of the communications network.